

# Help! Fire! Police!

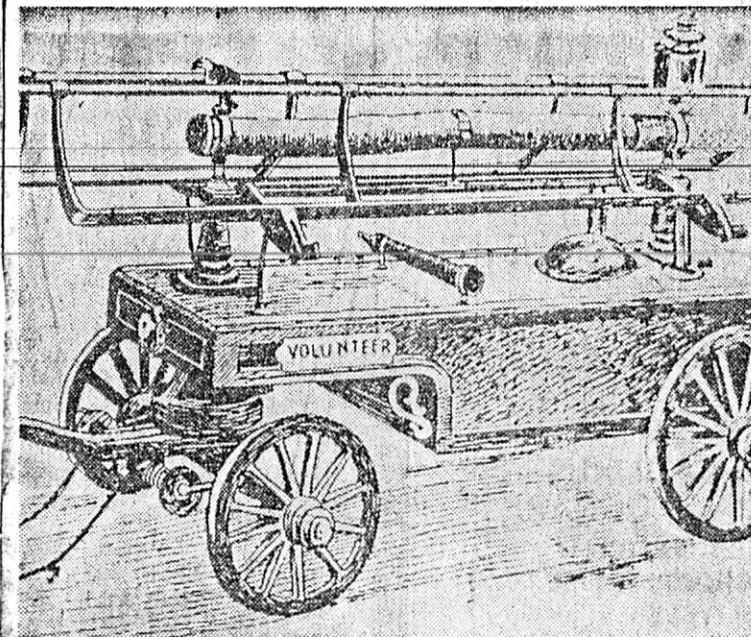
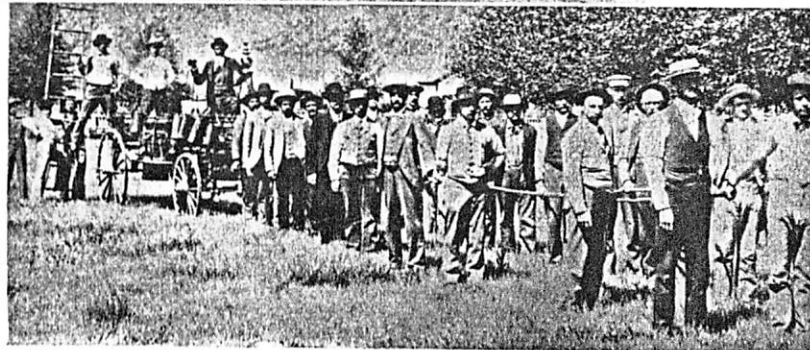


Not only did the early volunteer firemen have to put out flames, they had to drag pump along with them. First fire engine in Salt Lake was the "Volunteer," built by blacksmiths in 1853. Bell in city hall summoned the volunteers.



Clothes make the policeman and he's had a change of uniform fairly often. Models show the progression. As the city grew, horses replaced the volunteers in the shaft. Fire department had its own teams to haul smoke-eaters.

Sure, and it's quite unlikely there was ever as proud a group as the volunteer firemen. Wagon held the leather buckets. At fire, men formed two lines from blaze to nearest ditch.



**POWERFUL FIRE ENGINE**—Salt Lake's first fire engine, the first in the West, was a hand-pump engine.

## First in the West:

## First Fire Department in West Organized in Salt Lake

The first fire department in the West, organized as a fire-fighting unit, was in Salt Lake City in 1853. Mayor Jedediah M. Grant signed the ordinance, fires the previous year having been quite frequent.

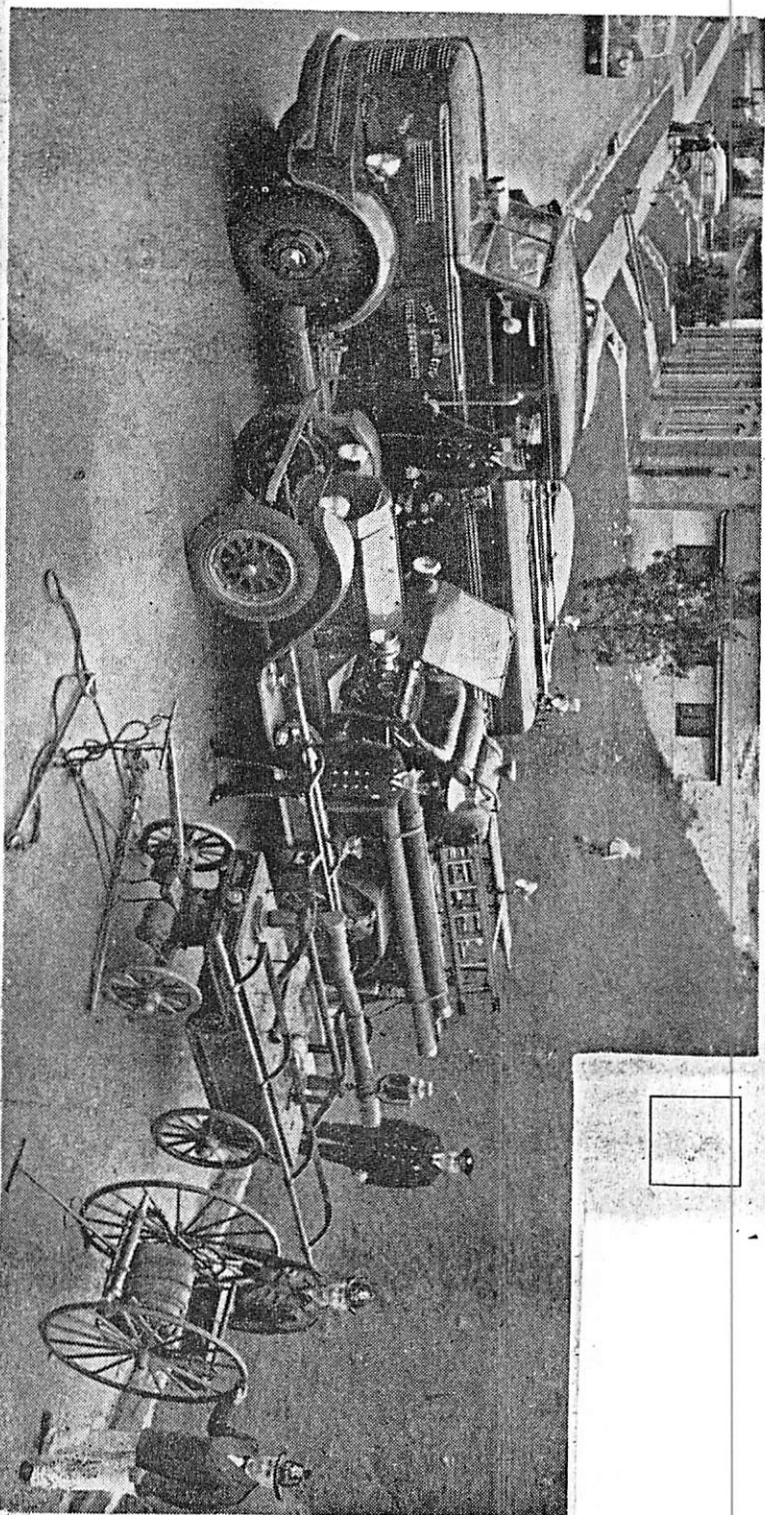
It was a cumbersome duty for each member of the volunteer department to grab his leather bucket, dash from his home and look for someone who knew where the fire was. There were three dozen of these leather buckets given to the volunteers, but prior to this time the willing "fire-eaters" furnished their own buckets for the brigade.

In 1856 the fire-fighting equipment was considered very inadequate, and when Alderman Davis brought the subject before the city council an ordinance was passed reorganizing the fire department.

Jesse C. Little was the first chief engineer and had two as-

sistants. Their first fire engine was constructed by hand in Salt Lake City, using a \$500 appropriation allowed by the city council. It was a hand-pump engine and the stream of water was so weak that when tested for the first time the water would not go over the temple wall. Then, it was improved until the more powerful stream would go completely over the wall. Finally completed, the engine cost \$903.88, and the engine house a mere \$1684.26.

There was a great deal of glory attached to this old fire department. Their banner bore the inscription, "We aim to aid and work to save." In spite of the inscription, complaints were soon heard about the inadequacy of the pumps and so another hand-pump engine was added to the equipment.



## Great Engines Replace 'Muscle' Fire Fighting

By Arthur Wright

City fathers have long looked to an efficient fire-fighting unit with the latest equipment available to insure the public adequate protection to their property from the ravages of fire.

As far back as 1853, when Jedediah M. Grant, father of Heber J. Grant, was the founding city's mayor, he ordered Higgs Brothers' Manufacturing Co. to make

A constant improvement in fire fighting equipment used in Salt Lake City is shown by comparison of the old and antiquated

apparatus, pulled to the fire and pumped by hand, with one of the more modern fire fighters, which is standing adjacent to it.